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## TESTS ARE SAVING VIRGINIA CATTLE

Commissioner Saunders Will Ask Legislature for Bigger Appropriation.

### NEW RAILROAD PROJECTED

Charter Issued for Henry County Line—McAlexander Resigns Senatorship.

In order to rid the State of Virginia of tuberculosis in cattle, State Dairy and Food Commissioner W. D. Saunders will ask the next Legislature for an appropriation of \$20,000 for the purpose of continuing and enlarging the tuberculin tests. Professor Saunders said yesterday that he regards this work as of the highest importance to the stock raisers and dairymen of Virginia.

At its last session the General Assembly made an appropriation of \$5,000, more as a beginning than with any hope of covering a large amount of territory. Under the provisions of the law, any owner may ask for a test of his herd. All cattle which react under the test are killed. The State reimburses the proprietor with 60 per cent. of the appraised value of the animals. In some instances it is found when the animal is killed that it is so badly affected as to be unfit for human food, so it is condemned and the carcass destroyed. But in most cases only certain spots are diseased, and these are cut out, after which the remainder of the flesh may be safely marketed. The revenue from this course goes to the State fund for the continuance of the experiments.

**Heavy Disease Rate.** In the last herd examined there were about 200 cattle. The same herd was tested several months ago, and sixty cattle reacted and were slaughtered. Later other animals were added to the herd, and upon the second test about thirty were found with the disease. It was found that the State, after settling with the owner and realizing on such of the cattle as were fit for food, lost about 60 per cent. of the 60 per cent. of value paid the owner.

However, the loss to the fund is not always so great, nor is the percentage of infection usually so high. The preliminary tests were made last spring in the vicinity of Blacksburg, and when a number of herds had been examined, it was found that in no case did the loss exceed 10 per cent. On the other hand, in a herd in the northern part of the State, forty-seven of the fifty-six cattle were found to be suffering from tuberculosis.

**Uncle Sam Helps.** The cost of the tests is borne by the United States Department of Agriculture, and the expense on the State is in reimbursing the owner of infected animals. The appropriation is now nearly exhausted. Professor Saunders estimates that an appropriation of \$20,000 would pay for probably \$70,000 worth of slaughtered cattle.

The commissioner is pleased with the growing interest in the matter. Owners of stock are taking notice and are becoming more and more interested in the elimination of the disease from their herds. Another thing which has contributed to the diffusion of knowledge has been the order barring the shipment of cattle into Virginia, unless accompanied by papers which are satisfactory to the State Veterinarian. Railroads are held responsible, and great care is now exercised that no tuberculous cattle are shipped into Virginia.

### NEW RAILWAY LINE

Company Will Build Short Line of Road in Henry County.

Chartered for the purpose of building a railroad from Ridgeway, in Henry County, to the North Carolina line, the North Carolina-Virginia Railway Company was yesterday incorporated by the State Corporation Commission. The line of road will only be about six miles long.

The capital stock maximum is to be \$5,000, and the minimum \$2,000. The company is given the right of condemnation in securing rights of way.

Officers are as follows: E. C. Wing, president, New York; George Demarest, secretary and treasurer, Brooklyn. Directors are the above and P. Minturn Smith, Brooklyn; F. W. Davis, Brooklyn; Bronson H. Smith, Brooklyn; S. Strayer, Passaic, N. J.; and Malcolm K. Harris, Danville, Va.

**McAlexander Resigns.** Governor Mann in receipt of the resignation of Senator G. O. McAlexander, of the Twenty-sixth District. The Senator resigns to become postmaster at Salem. Three seats in the Senate are now vacant by resignation—those of Senators Owen, Kezell and McAlexander.

**Pardon Is Asked.**

Many of the citizens of Rockingham county have petitioned Governor Mann for a pardon for Max Hirsch, who is serving a term of nine years in the State Penitentiary for the murder of his brother-in-law, Louis Isaac.

County officers, with members of the trial jury, have signed the petition for clemency. The killing, it seems, was entirely unpremeditated and perhaps the result of a chance blow dealt with anything but murderous intent. While the two men were quarreling, Hirsch struck the other man over the head with a piece of wood. Examination of the skull showed, it is said, that it was unusually thin, and that a similar blow on an ordinary head would not have been serious in its results.

**Agrees With Decision.** The Supreme Court of Georgia, in a decision just rendered, sustains the decision of the Virginia Bureau of Insurance in ruling that the Heralds of Liberty, licensed as a fraternal beneficiary association, lacks the elements of the law. The Virginia license was revoked by Commissioner Button.

**RODBELL HELD ON WARRANT**

CHARGING GRAND LARCENY

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Staunton, Va., December 20.—J. H. Goddell was brought here last night on a requisition from Pocomoke by Chief of Police Lipscomb, on an indictment for grand larceny. The authorities had been searching for Rodbell for two years, during which time he has been in Texas. He bought and shipped from a Staunton firm 200 empty whisky barrels and gave them a check on a Maryland bank, which came back unpaid. Rodbell is in jail.

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In either nickel or copper, and at prices ranging from \$3.00 up to \$15.00.

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We have just opened up a line of Mahogany Case Clocks that are winners. We have other kinds, too, at from 75c up to \$35.00 each.

#### Dinner Sets

A Dinner Set is a very suitable present for a housekeeper, and we have them in the different grades at from \$12.50 to \$100.00 per set.

#### Special Jupiter Burner

Another shipment of this fine Incandescent Gas Burner received, and we again put them on sale at 59c each.

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## COURT REVERSES JUDGE WILLIAMS

Judge Scott Rules Against Attorney-General in Matter of Recording Deeds.

Attorney-General Samuel W. Williams, of Virginia, was reversed yesterday by Judge R. Carter Scott, of the City Circuit Court, in the case affecting

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the tax on recording deeds to property, and the Attorney-General was given leave to file bills of exception and prepare a record for application for writ of error, as it is desired to have the Supreme Court of Appeals pass on the point at issue. The case affects not only all persons recording deeds for property amounting to \$1,000 or over but also interests the clerk of every court of record in Virginia, for had the position taken by the Attorney-General in construing an act passed by the last Legislature been sustained, the clerks might have been held liable for back tax on all deeds recorded since March 19, 1910.

**Test Case Made Out.** In order to test the matter, a case was made out by agreement. William W. Rountree offering a deed for recordation in the Chancery Court some weeks ago. He offered to pay the usual recording fees and the State tax of 1-10 of 1 per cent. of the amount involved. Under the ruling of the Attorney-General, the law was construed to require a minimum fee of \$1 and 1-10 of 1 per cent. on the whole amount, making a double tax on the first \$1,000. Mr. Rountree, in order to test the matter, declined payment of the extra \$1, and asked the City Circuit Court for a mandamus to compel the clerk of the Chancery Court to record his deed. The Attorney-General filed a demurrer, which was argued at length yesterday before Judge Scott, who overruled the

demurrer and awarded the writ of mandamus prayed for. The Attorney-General excepted to the ruling of the court and was given leave to file bills of exception, and judgment was suspended pending appeal. The Attorney-General announcing that he would apply for a writ of error.

The whole issue related to the amount of tax to be paid to the State, the fees of the clerks not being affected. While on the face of the record Clerk Saville loses in the test case, having acted on the opinion of Attorney-General Williams in demanding the additional dollar, which was refused before he would record the deed in question, yet Mr. Saville in reality wins his contention, as, previous to the opinion of the Attorney-General—in fact, since the act of the Legislature was signed on March 19 last—he and the clerks of courts of record all over Virginia have been recording deeds without imposing a duplicate tax on the first \$1,000 of value, and their action now seems to have the

approval of Judge Scott.

Attorney Brockenhough Lamb appeared for Mr. Rountree.

**LEAVE CHURCH BY WINDOW.**

Young Couple Takes Unusual Means to Avoid Gaze of Crowd.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Lynchburg, Va., December 20.—

"Come on, kid," declared Mrs. William Franklin Sunday, to her husband of two minutes, at the First Baptist Church, when she leaped out of a window, in order to leave the church

without having to run the gauntlet of a large number of persons who had remained outside the church for the consummation of a post-service marriage.

William Franklin Watt, a young bookkeeper, and Miss Maebelle Franklin, a daughter of W. W. Franklin, all of Lynchburg, went to that church Sunday morning to be wedded quietly

after the service, but Dr. Hamilton, the pastor, was not present, having been detained at home because of scarlet fever in his family. The minister filling his place was not licensed to perform the rite of matrimony here and it became necessary to telephone for Dr. Hamilton. In the meantime the coming event was whispered through the congregation, and a large con-

tingent remained outside waiting the coming of the couple.

After the ceremony had been performed the young lady asked Dr. Hamilton to raise the window for her. He did so, not knowing the reason therefor, and immediately she leaped through the opening, calling to her husband to follow her jump. They landed safely and missed the crowd, though the maid of honor and best man, who did not have the courage to make the plunge, left the church by the door.

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